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(54) **THRUST EFFICIENT TURBOFAN ENGINE**

(56) **References Cited**

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(63) Continuation of application No. 14/497,822, filed on
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

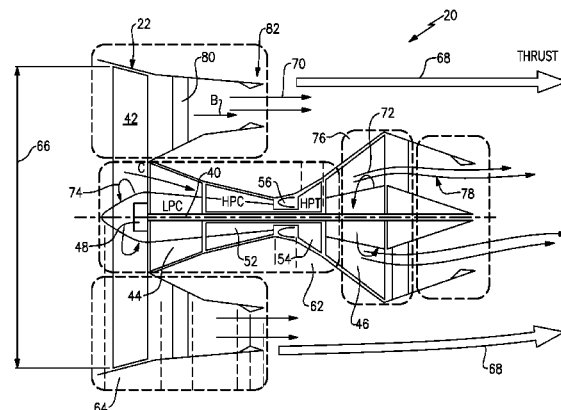
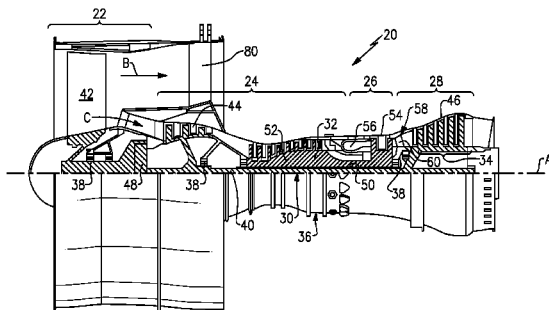
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A disclosed turbofan engine includes a gas generator section
for generating a gas stream flow. A speed reduction device
is driven by the power turbine. A propulsor section includes
a fan driven by the power turbine through the speed reduc-
tion device at a second speed lower than the first speed for
generating propulsive thrust as a mass flow rate of air
through a bypass flow path. The fan includes a tip diameter
greater than forty-five (45) inches and an Engine Unit Thrust
Parameter ("EUTP") defined as net engine thrust divided by
a product of the mass flow rate of air through the bypass flow
path, a tip diameter of the fan and the first rotational speed
of the power turbine for cruise, climb and sea level take-off
power conditions.

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CPC F02C 6/02; F02C 3/04; F02C 3/06; F02C
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See application file for complete search history.

26 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



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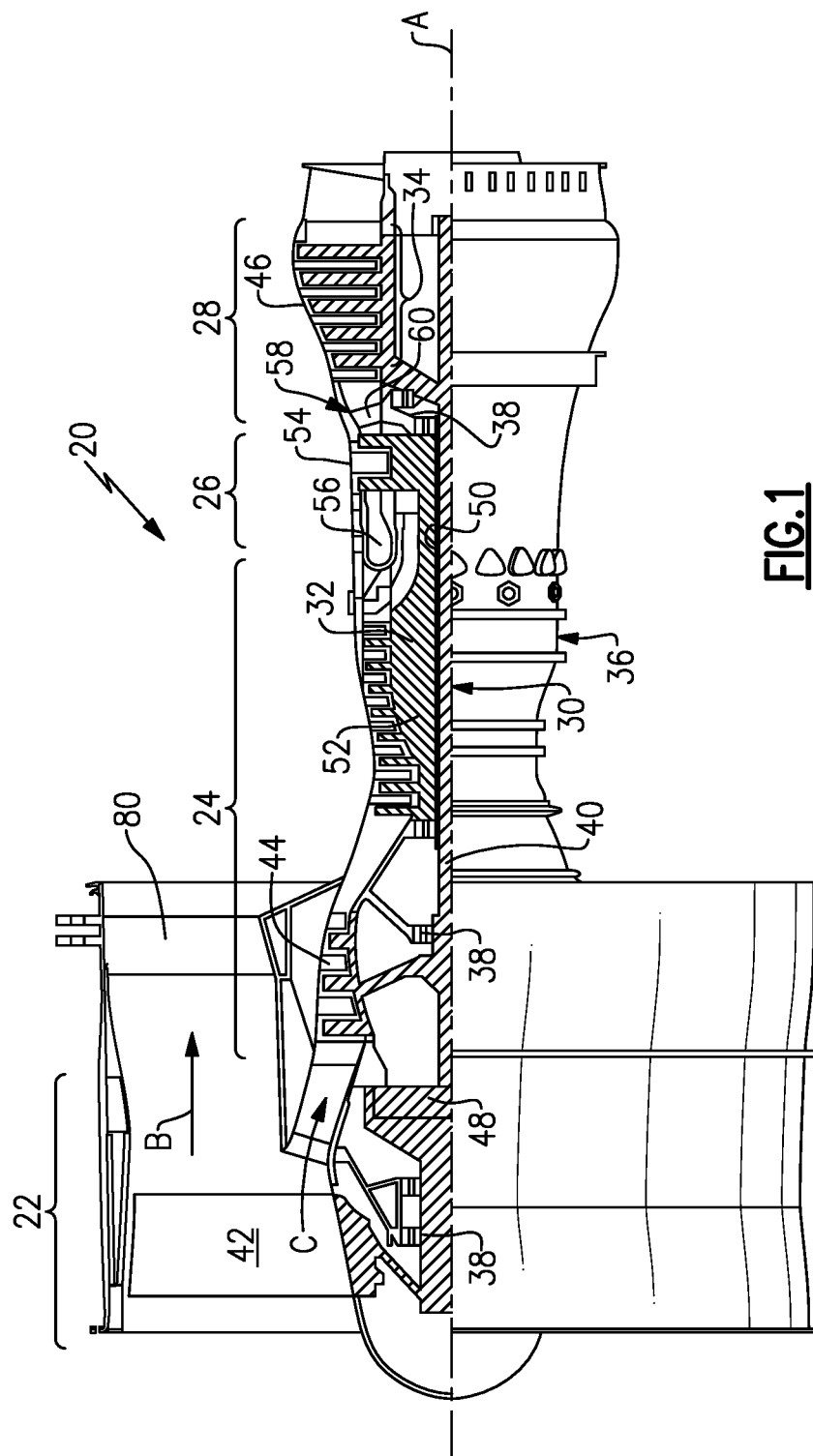
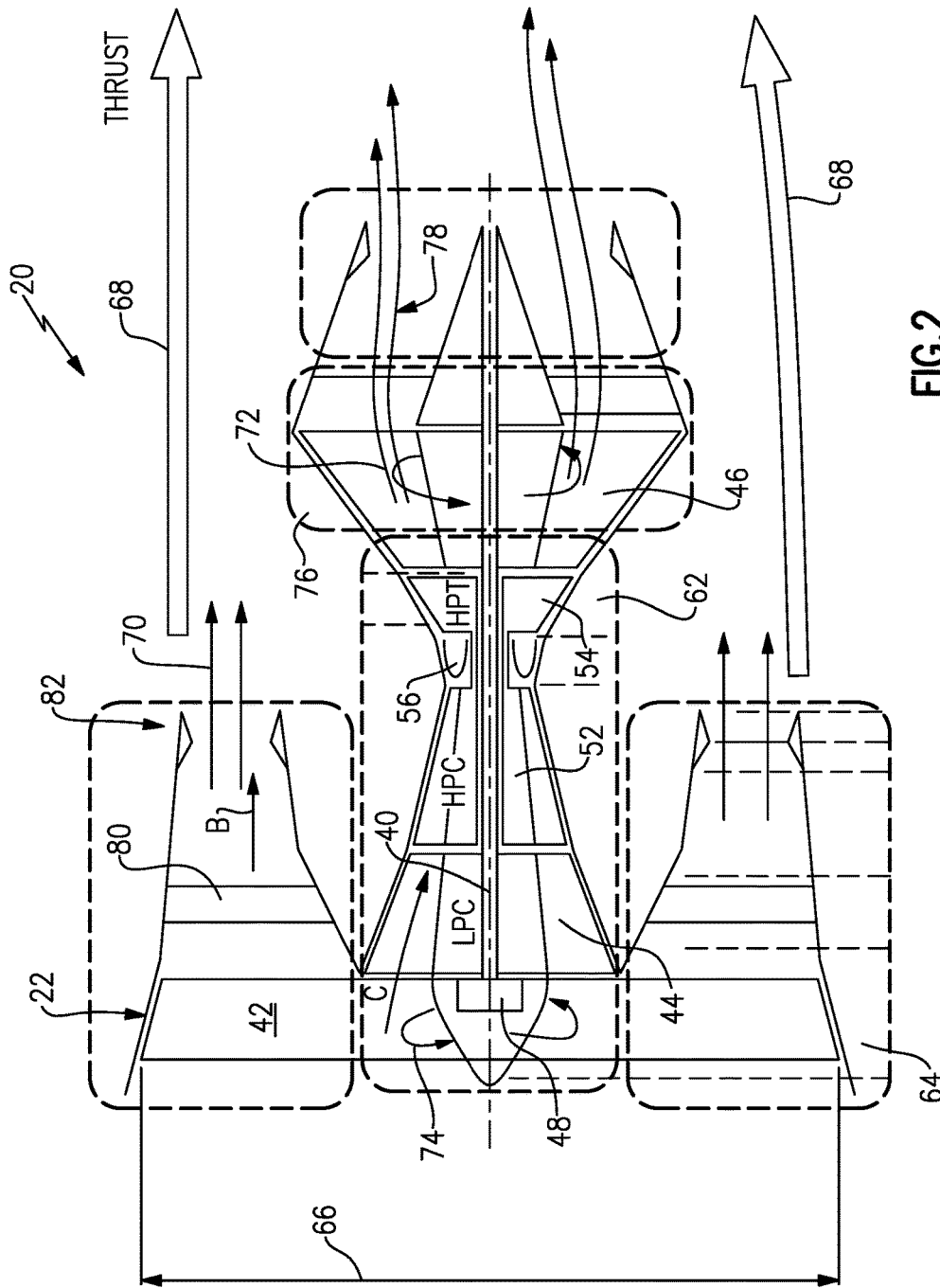


FIG. 1



THRUST EFFICIENT TURBOFAN ENGINE

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present disclosure is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 14/497,822 filed on Sep. 26, 2014 which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/884,327 filed on Sep. 30, 2013 and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Ser. No. 13/854,225 filed on Apr. 1, 2013, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/787,321 filed on Mar. 15, 2013.

BACKGROUND

A turbofan engine typically includes a fan section, a compressor section, a combustor section and a turbine section. Air entering the compressor section is typically compressed and delivered into the combustor section where it is mixed with fuel and ignited to generate a high-pressure, high-temperature gas flow. The high-pressure, high-temperature gas flow expands through the turbine section to drive the compressor and the fan section.

A direct-drive turbofan engine typically includes a fan section directly driven by a low pressure turbine producing the power needed to drive the fan section, such that the low pressure turbine and the fan section rotate at a common rotational speed in a common direction. A power transmission device such as a gear assembly or other mechanism may be utilized to drive the fan section such that the fan section may rotate at a speed different than the turbine section so as to increase the overall efficiency of the engine. In a gear-drive turbofan engine architecture, a shaft driven by one of the turbine sections may provide an input to the speed reduction device that drives the fan section at a reduced speed such that both the turbine section and the fan section can rotate at closer to their respective optimal rotational speeds.

SUMMARY

A turbofan engine according to an exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, among other possible things includes a gas generator section for generating a gas stream flow with higher energy per unit mass flow than that contained in ambient air. A power turbine configured for converting the gas stream flow into shaft power. The power turbine configured for rotating at a first rotational speed and operating at a temperature less than about 1800° F. at a sea level takeoff power condition. A speed reduction device configured to be driven by the power turbine. A propulsor section includes a fan configured to be driven by the power turbine through the speed reduction device at a second speed lower than the first speed for generating propulsive thrust as a mass flow rate of air through a bypass flow path. The engine is configured such that when operating at the sea level takeoff power condition a bypass ratio of a first volume of air through the bypass flow path divided by a second volume of air directed into the gas generator is greater than about 10.0 and a pressure ratio across the fan is less than about 1.50.

In a further embodiment of the foregoing turbofan engine, the fan includes a tip diameter greater than about fifty (50) inches and an Engine Unit Thrust Parameter ("EUTP") defined as net engine thrust divided by a product of the mass flow rate of air through the bypass flow path, a tip diameter of the fan and the first rotational speed of the power turbine is less than about 0.30 at the sea level takeoff power condition.

In a further embodiment of the foregoing turbofan engine, the EUTP is less than about 0.25 at the takeoff condition.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the EUTP is less than about 0.20 at the takeoff condition.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the EUTP at one of a climb condition and a cruise condition is less than about 0.10.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the EUTP at one of a climb condition and a cruise condition is less than about 0.08.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the tip diameter of the fan is greater than about 50 inches and less than about 160 inches.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the mass flow generated by the propulsor section is between about 625 lbm/sec and about 80,000 lbm/sec.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the first speed of the power turbine is between about 6200 rpm and about 12,500 rpm.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the propulsive thrust generated by the turbofan engine is between about 16,000 lbf and about 120,000 lbf.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the gas generator defines an overall pressure ratio of between about 40 and about 80.

A turbofan engine according to an exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, among other possible things includes a gas generator section for generating a gas stream flow with higher energy per unit mass flow than that contained in ambient air. A power turbine for converting the gas stream flow into shaft power. The power turbine is rotatable at a first rotational speed, wherein the power turbine operates at a temperature less than about 1800° F. at a sea level takeoff power condition. A speed reduction device is configured to be driven by the power turbine. A propulsor section includes a fan configured to be driven by the power turbine through the speed reduction device at a second speed lower than the first speed for generating propulsive thrust as a mass flow rate of air through a bypass flow path. The fan includes a fan tip diameter greater than about fifty (50) inches and an Engine Unit Thrust Parameter ("EUTP") defined as net engine thrust divided by a product of the mass flow rate of air through the bypass flow path, a tip diameter of the fan and the first rotational speed of the power turbine is less than about 0.30 at the sea level takeoff power condition and or about 0.15 at one of a climb condition and a cruise condition.

In a further embodiment of the foregoing turbofan engine, the EUTP is less than about 0.125 for at least one of the climb condition and the cruise condition.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the EUTP at one of the climb condition and the cruise condition is less than about 0.08.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the EUTP at a takeoff condition is less than about 0.15.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the tip diameter of the fan is between about 50 inches and about 160 inches.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the mass flow generated by the propulsor section is between about 625 lbm/sec and about 80,000 lbm/sec.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the first speed of the power turbine is between about 6200 rpm and about 12,500 rpm.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the propulsive thrust generated by the turbofan engine is between about 16,000 lbf and about 120,000 lbf.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the gas generator defines an overall pressure ratio of between about 40 and about 80.

A turbofan engine according to an exemplary embodiment of this disclosure, among other possible things includes a gas generator section for generating a high energy gas stream. The gas generating section includes a compressor section, combustor section and a first turbine. A second turbine converts the high energy gas stream flow into shaft power. The second turbine rotates at a first speed and includes less than or equal to about six (6) stages. A geared architecture is driven by the second turbine. A propulsor section is driven by the second turbine through the geared architecture at a second speed lower than the first speed. The propulsor section includes a fan with a pressure ratio across the fan section less than about 1.50. The propulsor section generates propulsive thrust as a mass flow rate of air through a bypass flow path from the shaft power. The fan includes a tip diameter greater than about fifty (50) inches and an Engine Unit Thrust Parameter ("EUTP") defined as net engine thrust divided by a product of a mass flow rate of air through the bypass flow path, a tip diameter of the fan and the first rotational speed of the second turbine is less than about 0.30 at a takeoff condition.

In a further embodiment of the foregoing turbofan engine, the EUTP is less than about 0.25 at the takeoff condition.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the EUTP is less than about 0.20 at the takeoff condition.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the EUTP at one of a climb condition and a cruise condition is less than about 0.10.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the EUTP at the takeoff condition is less than about 0.08.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the fan section defines a bypass airflow having a bypass ratio greater than about ten (10).

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the tip diameter of the fan is between about 50 inches and about 160 inches.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the mass flow generated by the propulsor section is between about 625 lbm/sec and about 80,000 lbm/sec.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the first speed of the second turbine is between about 6200 rpm and about 12,500 rpm.

In a further embodiment of any of the foregoing turbofan engines, the second turbine comprises a low pressure turbine with 3 to 6 stages.

Although the different examples have the specific components shown in the illustrations, embodiments of this disclosure are not limited to those particular combinations. It is possible to use some of the components or features from one of the examples in combination with features or components from another one of the examples.

These and other features disclosed herein can be best understood from the following specification and drawings, the following of which is a brief description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic view of an example turbofan engine.

FIG. 2 is a schematic view of functional elements of the example turbofan engine.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 schematically illustrates an example gas turbine engine 20 that includes a fan section 22, a compressor section 24, a combustor section 26 and a turbine section 28. Alternative engines might include an augmentor section (not shown) among other systems or features. The fan section 22 drives air through a bypass flow path B while the compressor section 24 draws air in along a core flow path C where air is compressed and communicated to a combustor section 26. In the combustor section 26, air is mixed with fuel and ignited to generate a high pressure exhaust gas stream that expands through the turbine section 28 where energy is extracted and utilized to drive the fan section 22 and the compressor section 24.

Although the disclosed non-limiting embodiment depicts a two-spool turbofan gas turbine engine, it should be understood that the concepts described herein are not limited to use with two-spool turbofans as the teachings may be applied to other types of turbine engines; for example a turbine engine including a three-spool architecture in which three spools concentrically rotate about a common axis and where a low spool enables a low pressure turbine to drive a fan via a speed reduction device such as a gearbox, an intermediate spool that enables an intermediate pressure turbine to drive a first compressor of the compressor section, and a high spool that enables a high pressure turbine to drive a high pressure compressor of the compressor section.

The example engine 20 generally includes a low speed spool 30 and a high speed spool 32 mounted for rotation about an engine central longitudinal axis A relative to an engine static structure 36 via several bearing systems 38. It should be understood that various bearing systems 38 at various locations may alternatively or additionally be provided and that the location of the bearing systems 38 may be varied as appropriate to the application.

The low speed spool 30 generally includes an inner shaft 40 that connects a fan 42 and a low pressure (or first) compressor section 44 to a low pressure (or first) turbine section 46. The inner shaft 40 drives the fan 42 through a speed change device, such as a geared architecture 48, to drive the fan 42 at a lower speed than the low speed spool 30. The high-speed spool 32 includes an outer shaft 50 that interconnects a high pressure (or second) compressor section 52 and a high pressure (or second) turbine section 54. The inner shaft 40 and the outer shaft 50 are concentric and rotate via the bearing systems 38 about the engine central longitudinal axis A.

A combustor 56 is arranged between the high pressure compressor 52 and the high pressure turbine 54. In one example, the high pressure turbine 54 includes at least two stages to provide a double stage high pressure turbine 54. In another example, the high pressure turbine 54 includes only a single stage. As used herein, a "high pressure" compressor or turbine experiences a higher pressure than a corresponding "low pressure" compressor or turbine. It will be appreciated that each of the positions of the fan section 22, compressor section 24, combustor section 26, turbine section 28, and fan drive gear system 48 may be varied. For example, gear system 48 may be located aft of combustor

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section 26 or even aft of turbine section 28, and fan section 22 may be positioned forward or aft of the location of gear system 48.

The example low pressure turbine 46 has a pressure ratio that is greater than about five (5). The pressure ratio of the example low pressure turbine 46 is measured prior to an inlet of the low pressure turbine 46 as related to the pressure measured at the outlet of the low pressure turbine 46 prior to an exhaust nozzle.

A mid-turbine frame 58 of the engine static structure 36 is arranged generally between the high pressure turbine 54 and the low pressure turbine 46. The mid-turbine frame 58 further supports bearing systems 38 in the turbine section 28 as well as setting airflow entering the low pressure turbine 46.

Airflow through the core airflow path C is compressed by the low pressure compressor 44 then by the high pressure compressor 52 mixed with fuel and ignited in the combustor 56 to produce a gas stream with high energy that expands through the high pressure turbine 54 and low pressure turbine 46. The mid-turbine frame 58 includes vanes 60, which are in the core airflow path C and function as an inlet guide vane for the low pressure turbine 46. Utilizing the vane 60 of the mid-turbine frame 58 as the inlet guide vane for low pressure turbine 46 decreases the length of the low pressure turbine 46 without increasing the axial length of the mid-turbine frame 58. Reducing or eliminating the number of vanes in the low pressure turbine 46 shortens the axial length of the turbine section 28. Thus, the compactness of the gas turbine engine 20 is increased and a higher power density may be achieved.

The disclosed gas turbine engine 20 in one example is a high-bypass geared aircraft engine. In a further example, the gas turbine engine 20 includes a bypass ratio greater than about six (6), with an example embodiment being greater than about ten (10). The example speed reduction device is a geared architecture 48 however other speed reducing devices such as fluid or electromechanical devices are also within the contemplation of this disclosure. The example geared architecture 48 is an epicyclical gear train, such as a planetary gear system, star gear system or other known gear system, with a gear reduction ratio of greater than about 1.8 and, in some embodiments, greater than about 4.5.

In one disclosed embodiment, the gas turbine engine 20 includes a bypass ratio greater than about ten (10:1) and the fan diameter is significantly larger than an outer diameter of the low pressure compressor 44. It should be understood, however, that the above parameters are only exemplary of one embodiment of a gas turbine engine including a geared architecture and that the present disclosure is applicable to other gas turbine engines.

A significant amount of thrust is provided by airflow through the bypass flow path B due to the high bypass ratio. The fan section 22 of the engine 20 is designed for a particular flight condition—typically cruise at about 0.8 Mach and about 35,000 feet. The flight condition of 0.8 Mach and 35,000 ft., with the engine at its best fuel consumption—also known as “bucket cruise Thrust Specific Fuel Consumption (‘TSFC’)”—is the industry standard parameter of pound-mass (lbm) of fuel per hour being burned divided by pound-force (lbf) of thrust the engine produces at that minimum point.

“Low fan pressure ratio” is the pressure ratio across the fan blade alone, without a Fan Exit Guide Vane (‘FEGV’) system. The low fan pressure ratio as disclosed herein according to one non-limiting embodiment is less than about

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1.50. In another non-limiting embodiment the low fan pressure ratio is less than about 1.45.

“Low corrected fan tip speed” is the actual fan tip speed in ft/sec divided by an industry standard temperature correction of $[(T_{\text{am}} - 518.7)^{0.5}]$. The “Low corrected fan tip speed”, as disclosed herein according to one non-limiting embodiment, is less than about 1150 ft/second.

The example gas turbine engine includes the fan 42 that comprises in one non-limiting embodiment less than about twenty-six (26) fan blades. In another non-limiting embodiment, the fan section 22 includes less than about twenty (20) fan blades. Moreover, in one disclosed embodiment the low pressure turbine 46 includes no more than about six (6) stages schematically indicated at 34. In another non-limiting example embodiment the low pressure turbine 46 includes about three (3) stages. A ratio between the number of fan blades 42 and the number of low pressure turbine rotors is between about 3.3 and about 8.6. The example low pressure turbine 46 provides the driving power to rotate the fan section 22 and therefore the relationship between the number of stages 34 in the low pressure turbine 46 and the number of blades 42 in the fan section 22 defines an example gas turbine engine 20 with increased power transfer efficiency.

Referring to FIG. 2, with continued reference to FIG. 1, the example turbofan engine 20 includes a gas generator section 62 for generating a high energy (per unit mass) gas stream 78. A power turbine 76 converts the high energy gas stream 78 into shaft power that drives the geared architecture 48. In one embodiment, the power turbine may be the low pressure turbine 46 that drives the inner shaft 40. The power turbine 76 drives a propulsor section 64 through the geared architecture 48. The propulsor section 64 generates a mass flow 70 of air through the bypass flow path B that is a substantial portion of the overall propulsive thrust 68 generated by the turbofan engine 20.

The gas generator section 62 includes part of the fan section compressing the air flow directed along the core flow path C, the low pressure compressor 44, the high pressure compressor 52, the combustor 56, the high pressure turbine 54 and part of the low-pressure turbine 46. The high pressure turbine 54 is the first turbine after the combustor 56 and drives the high pressure compressor 52. Disclosed example gas generators include an overall pressure ratio between entering airflow and the exiting gas stream of between about 40 and 80.

The power driving the geared architecture 48 and thereby the propulsor section 64 is provided by the power turbine 76. In this disclosure, the power turbine 76 comprises the second turbine downstream of the combustor 56 such as the low pressure turbine 46. The low pressure turbine 46 rotates at the first speed 72 and includes no more than six (6) stages 34. Moreover, the low pressure turbine 46 may include between three (3) and six (6) stages 34, inclusive.

The power or low pressure turbine 46 rotates at the first speed 72 (measured in terms of revolutions per minute) greater than a second speed 74 (also measured in terms of revolutions per minute) at which the fan section 22 rotates. In some embodiments, the first speed may be between about 6200 rpm and about 12,500 rpm. The first speed of the low pressure turbine 46 is enabled by the speed reduction provided by the geared architecture 48. At the first speed 72, each of the stages 34 are more efficient at converting energy from the gas flow 78 to power transmitted through the inner shaft 40.

The power turbine 76 operates at a more efficient speed and therefore may operate at a more efficient temperature,

schematically indicated at **75**, for converting energy from the gas flow **78** to power through the inner shaft **40**. In one example embodiment, the power turbine **76** operates at temperatures below about 1800° F. during a sea level takeoff power condition with an ambient temperature of about 86° F. The sea level takeoff power condition, during the day and at 86° F. is a standard condition utilized to measure and compare engine performance.

In this example the power turbine temperature is determined with the engine **20** at the sea level takeoff power setting in a static uninstalled condition. The static and uninstalled condition is with the engine operating during test conditions while not subject to parasitic losses such as providing cabin bleed air to an aircraft cabin. In another example embodiment, the power turbine **76** operates at temperatures below about 1760° F. during the same sea level takeoff power condition with an ambient temperature of about 86° F. in a static uninstalled condition.

The propulsor section **64** includes the fan section with fan blades **42** that rotate about the engine axis A. The fan blades **42** extend radially outward to define a tip diameter **66** between tips of opposing blades **42**. The disclosed fan section **22** includes a tip diameter **66** that, in some embodiments, may be between about 45 inches (114 cm) and about 160 inches (406 cm). In another example embodiment, the tip diameter **66** is between about 50 inches (127 cm) and about 85 inches (215.9 cm). The tip diameter of the fan section **22** enables the desired fan pressure ratio in combination with the second rotational speed **74** provided by the gear reduction of the geared architecture **48**.

The propulsor section **64** includes the fan section **22**, and also includes the fan exit guide vanes **80** and typically a fan nozzle **82**. The fan section **22** is rotated at the second speed **74** by the geared architecture **48** at a speed determined to enable the generation of the mass flow **70** through the bypass flow path B. The pressure ratio across the fan section enables the efficient transformation of the shaft power provided in the power turbine **76** to propulsive thrust.

Fan pressure ratios below about 1.5, and better below 1.45 enable desirable generation of thrust. The desired fan pressure ratio can be obtained utilizing a combination of fan exit guide vanes **80** and the fan nozzle **82** that cooperate with the fan section **22** to enable fan pressure ratios of less than 1.45. The mass flow **70** produced by the example propulsor section **64** may, in some embodiments, be between about 625 lbm/sec (283 kg/sec) and about 80,000 lbm/sec (36,287 kg/sec). The mass flow of air **70** through the bypass flow path B combines with thrust generated by gas flow **78** to provide the overall engine thrust **68**. However, a majority of

engine thrust is provided by the mass flow of air **70** generated by the propulsor section **64**.

The overall efficiency of the turbofan engine **20** is a combination of how well each of the sections **62**, **76** and **64** converts input energy into the desired output. The gas generator section **62** transforms energy from the air/fuel mixture ignited in the combustor **56** into the high-energy gas stream **78**. The power turbine **46** converts energy from the gas stream **78** into shaft power rotating the inner shaft **40** at a first speed **72** to drive the propulsor **64**. The propulsor section **64** generates the mass flow of air **70** through bypass flow path B that provides the propulsive thrust **68**.

The thrust generation efficiency of the engine is related to the Engine Unit Thrust Parameter (“EUTP”), which is defined as the net thrust produced by the engine divided by the product of mass flow rate of air through the fan bypass section, the fan tip diameter and the rotational speed of the power turbine section, as set out in Equation 1.

Engine Unit Thrust Parameter =

Equation 1

$$\frac{\text{Net Thrust of the Engine}}{[(\text{mass flowrate of air through fan bypass}) (\text{Fan Tip Diameter})(\text{Speed of the power turbine})]}$$

The EUTP is a dimensionless quantity calculated utilizing the net engine thrust, the mass flow rate of air, the tip diameter and the power turbine rotational speed expressed in appropriate units. For example, if the SI system of units is used, the units for these four quantities will be N, kg/s, m and radians/s, respectively. The calculation of the EUTP will be straight forward with no need to use conversion factors. If a “customary” set of units are used, i.e., engine thrust expressed in lbf, mass flow rate expressed in lbm/s, fan diameter expressed in inches and rotational speed expressed in RPM, then the ratio calculated using these values are multiplied by constant approximately equal to 3686.87 to account for all conversion factors necessary to get all parameters in self-consistent units.

Embodiments of the geared gas turbine engine **20** including the disclosed features and configurations produce thrust ranging between about 16,000 lbf (71,171 N) and about 120,000 lbf (533,786 N). The EUTP for the disclosed turbofan engine **20** is less than those provided in prior art turbine engines. Three disclosed exemplary engines which incorporate power turbine and propulsor sections as set forth in this application are described and contrasted with prior art engine examples in Table 1.

TABLE 1

		Engine 1	Engine 2	Engine 3	Prior Art Engine 1	Prior Art Engine 2
Fan Diameter	in	55.9	73.0	81.0	63.5	49.2
Thrust Class	lbf	17K	23.3K	33K	33K	21K
Max Climb						
Thrust	lbf	3526	4878	6208	9721	8587
Fan face corr. Flow	lbm/sec	703.4	1212.1	1512.4	847.0	502.6
Fan OD corr. Flow	lbm/sec	626.3	1108.8	1388.6	696.4	314.2
Fan face physical flow	lbm/sec	261.5	450.6	561.7	519.4	308.8
Fan OD physical flow	lbm/sec	232.7	412.1	515.6	426.9	193.1
Second speed (fan)	RPM	4913	3377	3099	4969	7640
First speed (power turbine)	RPM	11835	10341	9491	4969	7640
Engine Unit Thrust Parameter		0.08	0.06	0.06	0.27	0.44

TABLE 1-continued

		Engine 1	Engine 2	Engine 3	Prior Art Engine 1	Prior Art Engine 2
Average Cruise						
Thrust	lbf	2821	3929	4729	5300	4141
Fan face corr. Flow	lbm/sec	668.3	1157.6	1429.4	845.6	490.5
Fan OD corr. Flow	lbm/sec	598.0	1065.6	1322.6	695.5	312.1
Fan face physical flow	lbm/sec	254.1	440.2	543.4	327.4	181.1
Fan OD physical flow	lbm/sec	227.3	405.2	502.7	269.2	115.2
Second speed (fan)	RPM	4472	3070	2748	4769	6913
First speed (power turbine)	RPM	10774	9402	8416	4769	6913
Engine Unit Thrust Parameter		0.08	0.05	0.05	0.24	0.39
Max Takeoff						
Thrust	lbf	12500	18735	25678	25382	17941
Fan face corr. Flow	lbm/sec	610.0	1032.5	1438.8	871.1	496.6
Fan OD corr. Flow	lbm/sec	546.6	948.5	1330.2	711.8	312.1
Fan face physical flow	lbm/sec	611.0	1029.4	1452.2	901.5	509.4
Fan OD physical flow	lbm/sec	547.4	945.6	1342.4	736.1	320.2
Second speed (fan)	RPM	4689	3249	3117	5411	7791
First speed (power turbine)	RPM	11295	9951	9546	5411	7791
Engine Unit Thrust Parameter		0.13	0.10	0.09	0.37	0.54

In some example embodiments, the EUTP is as low as 0.05 at a cruise condition and less than about 0.10 at maximum takeoff thrust. In another engine embodiment including a fan tip diameter greater than about fifty (50) inches the EUTP is less than about 0.30 at maximum takeoff thrust. In another engine embodiment including the fan tip diameter greater than about fifty (50) inches, the EUTP is less than about 0.25. In still a further engine embodiment including a fan tip diameter greater than about fifty (50) inches, the EUTP is less than about 0.20.

In a further embodiment, the EUTP is less than about 0.08 at a cruise and/or a climb condition. In one engine embodiment including a fan tip diameter greater than about fifty (50) inches, the EUTP is less than about 0.15 at a cruise and/or climb condition. In another engine embodiment including a fan tip diameter of greater than about fifty (50) inches, the EUTP is less than about 0.125 at a cruise and/or climb condition.

Moreover, the EUTP is accomplished through the use of the geared architecture 48 at a gear ratio of, in some embodiments, greater than about 2.3. In other embodiments, the gear ratio may be greater than about 2.8. Accordingly, a ratio of the EUTP to the gear ratio further defines physical operating characteristics of the disclosed engines. In one disclosed embodiment, a ratio of the EUTP at takeoff to a gear ratio of 2.8 is about 0.028. In another disclosed ratio of the EUTP at a climb or cruise condition to the gear ratio of 2.8 is between about 0.036 and 0.054.

Accordingly, the EUTP for engines based upon the disclosed features may be less than 0.30 when the engine is operating at takeoff condition, while it may have a value less than 0.1 when operating at climb and cruise conditions.

Accordingly, the disclosed embodiments of each of the gas generator 62, power turbine 76 and propulsor sections 64 of the geared engine embodiments efficiently convert energy to provide a more thrust efficient turbofan engine as compared to conventional non-geared engines.

Although various example embodiments have been disclosed, a worker of ordinary skill in this art would recognize that certain modifications would come within the scope of this disclosure. For that reason, the following claims should be studied to determine the scope and content of this disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A turbofan engine comprising:

a propulsor section including a fan and a core flow path portion, the fan including less than 26 fan blades with each fan blade having a fan tip diameter greater than 50 inches and less than 160 inches, wherein the fan rotates in operation at a fan tip speed less than 1150 ft/sec;

a power turbine including between 3 and 6 stages;

a gas generator section including the core flow path portion of the propulsor, a low pressure compressor, a high pressure compressor, a combustor, a high pressure turbine, and a part of the power turbine, the gas generator having an overall pressure ratio in operation between airflow entering the gas generator and a gas stream exiting from the gas generator that is between 40 and 80; and

a speed reduction device in driving connection to the power turbine and the fan, the speed reduction device including a speed reduction of greater than 2.3, wherein an Engine Unit Thrust Parameter ("EUTP") defined as net engine thrust divided by a product of the mass flow rate of air through a bypass flow path, a tip diameter of a fan and a first rotational speed of the power turbine in operation is less than 0.30 at a maximum takeoff thrust, wherein the net engine thrust is between 16,000 lbf and 120,000 lbf, the mass flow rate of air through the bypass flow path is between 625 lbm/sec and 80,000 lbm/sec and the first rotational speed is between 6,200 rpm and 12,500 rpm.

2. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 1, wherein the fan includes less than 20 fan blades.

3. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 2, wherein the gas generator section includes a two stage high pressure turbine.

4. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 3, wherein the EUTP in operation at the maximum takeoff thrust is less than 0.25.

5. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 4, wherein the EUTP in operation at a cruise condition is less than 0.10.

6. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 5, wherein the EUTP in operation at a climb condition is less than 0.10.

7. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 6, wherein the EUTP in operation at a climb condition is less than 0.08.

8. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 7, wherein the EUTP in operation at a cruise condition is less than 0.08.

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9. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 6, further comprising a low fan pressure ratio across the fan alone that is less than 1.45 in operation, and the EUTP in operation at the maximum takeoff thrust is less than 0.10.

10. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 7, wherein the EUTP in operation at the maximum takeoff thrust is less than 0.15.

11. A turbofan engine comprising:

a propulsor section including a fan and a core flow path portion, the fan including a fan tip diameter greater than 50 inches and less than 160 inches;

a power turbine;

a gas generator section including the core flow path portion of the propulsor, a low pressure compressor, a high pressure compressor, a combustor, a high pressure turbine, and a part of the power turbine, the gas generator having an overall pressure ratio in operation between airflow entering the gas generator and a gas stream exiting from the gas generator that is between 40 and 80; and

a speed reduction device in driving connection to the power turbine and the fan, wherein the speed reduction device includes a speed reduction of greater than 2.3, wherein an Engine Unit Thrust Parameter ("EUTP") defined as net engine thrust divided by a product of a mass flow rate of air through a bypass flow path, a tip diameter of the fan and a first rotational speed of the power turbine in operation is less than 0.25 at a sea-level takeoff power condition, wherein the net engine thrust is between 16,000 lbf and 120,000 lbf, the mass flow rate of air through the bypass flow path is between 625 lbm/sec and 80,000 lbm/sec and the first rotational speed is between 6,200 rpm and 12,500 rpm.

12. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 11, wherein the EUTP at the sea-level takeoff power condition is less than 0.20.

13. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 12, wherein the EUTP in operation at one of a climb condition and a cruise condition is less than 0.10.

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14. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 12, further comprising a low fan pressure ratio across the fan alone that is less than 1.45 in operation.

15. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 12, wherein a ratio between a number of fan blades and a number of rotors in the power turbine is between 3.3 and 8.6.

16. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 13, wherein the EUTP in operation at both of a climb condition and a cruise condition is less than 0.08.

17. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 13, wherein the EUTP in operation at the cruise condition is less than 0.08.

18. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 13, wherein the EUTP in operation at the sea-level takeoff power condition is less than 0.15.

19. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 10, wherein a ratio between the number of fan blades and a number of rotors in the power turbine is between 3.3 and 8.6.

20. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 19, wherein the EUTP in operation at the sea-level takeoff power condition is less than 0.10.

21. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 20, including a two stage high pressure turbine.

22. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 17, wherein the fan rotates at a fan tip speed less than about 1150 ft/sec in operation, and the high pressure turbine comprises a two stage high pressure turbine.

23. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 22, wherein the EUTP in operation at the sea level takeoff power condition is less than 0.10.

24. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 23, wherein a ratio between a number of fan blades and a number of rotors in the power turbine is between 3.3 and 8.6.

25. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 24, further comprising a low fan pressure ratio across the fan alone that is less than 1.45 in operation and wherein the number of fan blades is less than 20.

26. The turbofan engine as recited in claim 25, wherein the speed reduction device is a planetary gear system.

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